

BIOETHICS AND HUMANITIES NEWSLETTER

PROGRAM IN BIOETHICS AND HUMANITIES



May 2015

Welcome to the monthly Bioethics and Humanities Newsletter provided by the Program in Bioethics and Humanities at the University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine.

Program in Bioethics and Humanities: *Our Mission*

We are committed to helping healthcare professionals explore and understand the increasingly complex ethical questions that have been brought on by advances in medical technology and the health care system. We achieve this through education, research, and service within the Carver College of Medicine, University of Iowa Health Care, University of Iowa, and the wider Iowa community.

[More Details About The Program](#)



Program Highlight

[The Musculoskeletal Exam as a Dance](#)

Melissa Palma is a fourth year medical student, who will be graduating this month with a distinction in the medical humanities. Ms. Palma chose the format of dance to express the humanistic side of her medical school experience. In the video titled "M1 Musculoskeletal," Ms. Palma uses dance to portray the musculoskeletal exam through the eyes of a first-year medical student.

The purpose of the Humanities Distinction Track is to encourage, support, and recognize medical students who pursue scholarship in ethics, writing, or humanities. This track will promote students' growth as professionals and also further the promotion of humanism in medicine.

Co-Directors of the Humanities Distinction Track:
Lauris Kaldjian, MD, PhD
Jason T. Lewis, MFA

Upcoming Events

For a listing of upcoming events related to bioethics and humanities, please click [here](#).

Quotation of the Month

Researchers should explore the crucial issue of context, studying not only whether telemedicine works but also how, when, and where it works best, to provide a roadmap for more effective implementation. We must also study how to integrate telemedicine into the existing care system in ways that do not detract from the interpersonal and interprofessional relationships that we all recognize are essential to effective, patient-centered care.

- J. M. Kahn, from an article in the [New England Journal of Medicine](#) (2015)

Publication Highlight

[Autonomy and Autism: Who Speaks for the Adolescent Patient](#)

Rebecca Benson, MD, PhD and Catherina Pinnaro, MD
(Dr. Benson is an Affiliate Faculty member in the Program.)

This ethics case and commentary highlights the difficulty of maximizing autonomous medical decision making in minors, particularly when the minor has autism. It was published in the April 2015 issue of the AMA Journal of Ethics. The editor of this issue was Kathleen Miller, MD, who received her medical school education at the University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine and was mentored by Dr. Benson.

Literary Highlight from a CCOM Faculty Member

[A Tale of Three Breasts](#)

By Carol Scott-Conner

Carol Scott-Conner is Professor of Surgery at the University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine. She writes textbooks as well as short fiction and nonfiction pieces set in the world of academic surgery. A collection of her writing, *A Few Small Moments: Short Stories*, was published in 2011.

Resource Highlight

[Dying in America: Improving Quality and Honoring Individual Preferences Near the End of Life](#)

For patients and their loved ones, no care decisions are more profound than those made near the end of life. For the millions of Americans who work in or with the health care sector—including clinicians, clergy, caregivers, and support staff—providing high-quality care for people who are nearing the end of life is a matter of professional commitment and responsibility.

A substantial body of evidence shows that broad improvements to end-of-life care are within reach. In *Dying in America*, a consensus report from the Institute of Medicine (IOM), a committee of experts finds that improving the quality and availability of medical and social services for patients and their families could not only enhance quality of life through the end of life, but may also contribute to a more sustainable care system.

UIHC Ethics Consult Service

This service is a resource for patients, family members, or health professionals at UIHC who would like help addressing an ethical question or problem related to a patient's care. Consults can be ordered by UIHC clinicians through EPIC. Consults can also be requested by calling (319) 356-1616 and asking for the ethics consultant on call. For more information, [please click here](#).

Clinical Research Ethics Consultation Service

We provide free consultation on ethical issues related to research design, tissue banking, genetic research results, informed consent, and working with vulnerable patient populations. In particular, we assist clinical investigators in identifying and addressing the ethical challenges that frequently arise when designing or conducting research with human subjects. These include ethical challenges in sampling design; randomized and placebo-controlled studies; participant recruitment and informed consent; return of individual-level research results; community engagement processes; and more. For more information, [please click here](#).

Bioethics in the Literature

- Alesi ER, Ford TR, Chen CJ, et al. Development of the CASH assessment tool to address existential concerns in patients with serious illness. [J Palliat Med](#). 2015 Jan; 18: 71-75.
- Berger Z. Navigating the unknown: shared decision-making in the face of uncertainty. [J Gen Intern Med](#). 2015 May; 30: 675-678.
- Cho MK, Magnus D, Constantine M, et al. Attitudes toward risk and informed consent for research on medical practices: A cross-sectional survey. [Ann Intern Med](#). 2015 Apr 14.
- Elias P. Insensible losses: when the medical community forgets the family. [Health Aff \(Millwood\)](#). 2015 Apr 1; 34: 707-710.
- Grady C. Enduring and emerging challenges of informed consent. [N Engl J Med](#). 2015 Feb 26; 372: 855-862.
- Hantel A, Olopade CO. Drug and vaccine access in the Ebola epidemic: advising caution in compassionate use. [Ann Intern Med](#). 2015 Jan 20; 162: 141-142.
- Holdford DA. Is a pharmacy student the customer or the product? [Am J Pharm Educ](#). 2014 Feb 12; 78: 3.
- Kahn JM. Virtual Visits - Confronting the Challenges of Telemedicine. [N Engl J Med](#). 2015 Apr 30; 372: 1684-1685.
- Preda A, Voigt K. The social determinants of health: why should we care? [Am J Bioeth](#). 2015 Mar; 15: 25-36.
- Rysavy MA, Murph JR. On Risks and Reality: Communicating the Difference between Autism Risks and Diagnosis. [AMA J Ethics](#). 2015; 17: 323-327.



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